

SECRETDCI
INCOMING

01/ /

IMMEDIATE

06 FRP: ,2, , ,5, , ,8

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: CRN, MID-E (), NESA/AI, NESA/AI/E-2,
 NESA/AI/I-2, NESA/AIDC, NESA/PG, NESA/PG/P, NESA/PGDC, NESA/SCIO,
 NESA/SO, NESA/SO/C, ODPH-H, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OGI/GD/NES, OGI/IIC/IB,
 OGI/IIC/TR-2, OSA/PA/S, OSWR/TTC/S, PLANFAC-E (), RF, SOV/CS/CL,
 SOV/CS/S/M, SOV/CS/Y, SOV/PA/F, FILE, DCI, D/DCI, DCI/EXDIR, SA/DCI-2,
 O/DDO-4, CS/RF, PPD, NE/ARN-3, NE/ARP-2, NE/INT, CI, CRES/ARO, D/FBIS-2,
 D/OCR-3, IAD/IC, ICS/OHC/ME, NIO/NE, OGI-2, SAG/MEB, SAG/PPB, SAG/SEB-3,
 (35/W)

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TOR: 250849Z AUG 82

OO RUEAIIB
 ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
 STU5601
 OO RUEHC
 DE RUEHJI #6320 2370841
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZK
 O 250841Z AUG 82 ZFF-4
 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
 TO RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE 0142
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8271
 INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 5508
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 5655
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 2600
 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 1469
 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 3006
 BT
 S E C R E T JIDDA 06320

EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, SA
 SUBJECT: HABIB MISSION: LEBANON'S NEXT PRIME MINISTER

REF: BEIRUT 5674

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. I PASSED TO PRINCE BANDAR AUGUST 25 HABIB VIEWS REFTEL
 SCOTCHING RUMOR REGARDING POSSIBLE BASHIR SELECTION OF
 SHIA PRIME MINISTER, AND ALSO CONVEYED OTHER POINTS IN
 REFTEL.

3. BANDAR CALLED BACK IMMEDIATELY TO RELAY FOLLOWING FROM
 KING FAHD:

A) KING WAS PLEASED TO HEAR INFO THAT BASHIR DOES NOT
 INTEND TO APPOINT A SHIA PRIME MINISTER. SAG WILL KEEP OUR
 CONFIDENCE.

B) KING STRONGLY ENCOURAGES A RAPID BASHIR-SAAD SALAM
 MEETING AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED AS SOON AS IT
 TAKES PLACE. I REITERATED WITH BANDAR THAT SHAIR EFFORTS
 COULD HELP TO PROMOTE SUCH A MEETING WHICH MADE HIS
 PRESENCE IN LEBANON EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL.

C) KING BELIEVES BOMBINGS IN BEIRUT ARE WORK OF
 "COMMUNISTS". (I ASKED BANDAR IF THIS INCLUDED LEFTISTS
 LIKE QULAYLAT AND HE SAID YES.) THESE GROUPS HAVE NO
 POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND BASHIR SHOULD NOT TAKE THEM AS
 A RESPONSE FROM THE GENERAL MUSLIM COMMUNITY. THERE IS
 OBVIOUSLY OPPOSITION FROM MUSLIMS BUT IT IS PEACEFUL AND
 CAN BE EXPRESSED THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH BASHIR WHICH
 SAUDIS THINK IS ACCEPTABLE AND EVEN NECESSARY FOR
 RECONCILIATION.

State Dept. review completed

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4. BANDAR ALSO ASKED ABOUT NEWS REPORTS "DELAY" IN THE EVACUATION. I TOLD HIM THAT EVACUATION IS GOING ALL RIGHT AND THAT ONLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS DECISION TO EVACUATE SYRIANS BY SEA, WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN A CONTINGENCY PLAN.

5. RE SECOND SENTENCE IN PARA 2 REFTTEL, I ASSUME IT SHOULD READ: "HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO ANY SUCH RUMOR THAT HE WAS GOING TO APPOINT A SHIA."
SUDDARTH
END OF MESSAGE

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